

**Adult Other, Mixed Other, Southern Combo Doubles,**  
**Tri-Level and NCTA Singles Leagues 2025 USTA**  
**North Carolina Regulations**

*Only the NC State League Coordinator, in conjunction with the USTA North Carolina Adult League Committee Chair and Adult League Committee, shall have the authority to interpret these Regulations.*

**Major Regulations Changes for 2025**

| <b>League</b>      | <b>Deadline to add a team<br/>advancing directly to State<br/>Championship</b> |
|--------------------|--|
| Southern Tri-Level | August 15  |

**I. GENERAL**

- A. The United States Tennis Association (USTA), Southern Tennis Association (STA) and/or the North Carolina Tennis Association (NCTA) are the governing bodies of these **League** programs.
- B. Play is governed by THE RULES OF TENNIS in **The Friend at Court, The Code**, the USTA League Tennis National Regulations, STA Regulations and these NCTA Regulations.
- C. **USTA League programs are** team competitions for men and women with NTRP levels of 2.5 to 6.0. Winning local teams advance to the NC State Championship. Winners of the NC State Championship advance to the Southern Sectional Championships (as long as it is one of the divisions that is being offered at the Southern Sectional or Southern Invitational). With the exception of the Tri-Level and Singles Leagues, teams are formed in four divisions: 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over and 65 & over.
- D. To play in the following divisions, players must reach the minimum age for those divisions by December 31, 2025 with the exception of the 18 & Over division, in which players must reach the minimum age prior to registration:

| Age Division | Minimum Age |
|--------------|-------------|
| 18 & over    | 18          |
| 40 & over    | 40          |
| 55 & over    | 55          |
| 65 & over    | 65          |

- E. All players must be current members of the USTA through the respective league seasons. **No renewals are allowed during the local league season.**
- F. Players participating in any USTA North Carolina League Program acknowledge the risks associated with playing competitive tennis, accept those risks voluntarily and, in consideration of their acceptance in the USTA North Carolina League Programs, assume all risks for bodily injury, waive all claims for injury and property damage and release and hold harmless the USTA and the host facility, their officials, employees and agents with respect to any injury or loss caused by negligence or otherwise to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- G. The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system of rating levels of competition in these programs. A player under age 60 with a 2021, 2022 or 2023 computer rating must use that rating or above to participate in these leagues. A player age 60 or above with a 2022 or 2023 computer rating must use that rating or above to participate in these leagues. Players who do not have a valid NTRP rating or have never had an NTRP Rating are required to self-rate according to the NTRP Guidelines.
- H. Mixed Exclusive (M) ratings are only valid for future Mixed Doubles play. In the USTA League Mixed Division, an NTRP level will be calculated for participants who play in that Division. Year-end Mixed Exclusive ratings will be based on the final dynamic rating generated from local league and championship level competition. If a player has a valid computer (C) rating from a previous year, then a player will not receive a Mixed Exclusive rating.

- I. If a player is already registered for a team and the player self-rates, as required, to register for another league and receives a higher rating, they are able to continue to play at the at the lower rating for the team on which they have previously registered.
- J. Matches played in these leagues may be used in the calculation of NTRP Ratings as follows:

| League   | Results used to Calculate Rating? |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Adult Other- 18 & Over 2.5                       | Yes                               |
| Adult Other- 18 & 5.5, and 40 & Over 2.5 and 5.0 | No                                |
| Adult Other- 65 & Over                           | Yes                               |
| Mixed Other                                      | No                                |
| NCTA Singles League                              | No                                |
| Southern Tri-Level                               | Yes                               |
| Southern Combo Doubles                           | No                                |

## II. TEAM REQUIREMENTS

- A. Roster Requirements for each league:

| League   | Season | Minimum number | Maximum Number |
|--|--------|----------------|----------------|
| Adult Other- (65 & Over and 40 & Over 2.5 and 5.0) | Spring | 6              | 15             |
| Adult Other- (18 & Over 2.5 Men and 5.5)           | Spring | 5              | 15             |
| Mixed Other  | Spring | 3 Men, 3 Women | 15             |
| NCTA Singles League                                | Varies | 3              | 9              |
| Southern Tri-Level                                 | Varies | 6              | 15             |
| Southern Combo Doubles                             | Fall   | 6              | 15             |

B. NTRP Levels of Play

| DIVISION    | LEAGUE TYPE              | LOCAL LEAGUES   |
|-------------|--------------------------|---|
| Adult Other | 18 & Over                | 2.5 (men), 5.5  |
|             | 40 & Over                | 2.5 (Women), 5.0  |
|             | 65 & Over                | 3.0, 3.5, 4.0   |
| Mixed Other | 55 & Over                | 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5  |
|             | 65 & Over                | 3.0, 3.5, 4.0   |
| Combo       | 18 & Over                | 2.5, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5, 10.5  |
|             | 40 & Over                | 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5   |
|             | 55 & Over                | 6.5, 7.5, 8.5   |
|             | 65 & Over                | 6.5, 7.5, 8.5   |
| Singles     | 18 & Over                | 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0  |
|             | 40 & Over                | 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5  |
|             | 55 & Over                | 3.0, 3.5, 4.0   |
| Tri-Level   | 18 & Over                | Men 4.0/3.5/3.0, 4.5/4.0/3.5,<br>5.0/4.5/4.0, 5.5/5.0/4.5                 |
|             |                          | Women: 3.5/3.0/2.5, 4.0/3.5/3.0,<br>4.5/4.0/3.5, 5.0/4.5/4.0, 5.5/5.0/4.5 |
|             | 40 & Over                | Men 4.0/3.5/3.0, 4.5/4.0/3.5  |
|             |                          | Women: 3.5/3.0/2.5, 4.0/3.5/3.0,<br>4.5/4.0/3.5                           |
| 55 & Over   | 4.0/3.5/3.0, 4.5/4.0/3.5 |   |

- C. In Leagues that offer straight level divisions, a player may play only one level above his or her current NTRP Rating (For example, a 3.5 player can play up on a 4.0 team, but cannot play up on a 4.5 team).
- D. A local league shall consist of a minimum of 2 teams at a specific level of competition. Advancement to a State Championship is not permitted if this requirement is not met, except for the following:

| League                 | Levels permitted to advance to State Championships if they are the only local team                     |
|------------------------|--|
| Adult Other            | 18 & 2.5 (Men) and 5.5, 40 & Over 2.5 (Women) and 5.0  |
| Adult Other 65 & Over  | All 65 & Over teams  |
| Mixed Other            | All 55 & Over and 65 & Over teams  |
| Southern Combo Doubles | All 55 & over and 65 & over teams, 18 & over 2.5, 5.5, 9.5 and 10.5 teams, 40 & Over 5.5 and 9.5 teams |
| NCTA Singles League    | All Levels   |
| Southern Tri-Level     | All Levels   |

- E. Teams that may advance directly to a State Championship must be added to TennisLink and have their roster finalized with the minimum eligible number of players required to form a team

registered no later than the dates in the chart below. **After the date below, teams cannot add players to the TennisLink roster.**

| League   | Deadline to add a team advancing directly to State Championship |
|--|---|
| Adult Other- 18 & Over, 40 & Over, and 65 & Over | April 15  |
| Mixed Other Doubles                              | July 15   |
| Southern Tri-Level                               | August 15   |
| USTA-NC Singles League                           | August 15   |
| Southern Combo Doubles                           | September 15  |

An exception can be made if a team needs to be added to provide competition for a single state team.

- F. Teams that advance directly to a State Championship OR are participating in a qualifying event must maintain their roster on TennisLink with a majority of players from within the league area that they are representing. For example, a roster of 15 players must have a minimum of 8 players residing within the league boundaries. An exception can be made if a team is formed by the State League Coordinator to qualify a team.
- G. Teams that advance directly to a State Championship OR are participating in a qualifying event must maintain their rosters with at least 40% of players at the designated NTRP level of play. Leagues (and levels) that utilize combined ratings, (for example Combo Doubles, and Tri-Level League teams) are excluded.
- H. In Southern Combo Doubles, the combined levels of each doubles pair cannot exceed the team level.
- I. In the Southern Combo Doubles League, players in each level cannot exceed the maximum rating allowed for that level. See chart below:

| Combo Combined Level | Highest Rating a Player May Have |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2.5                  | 2.5                              |
| 5.5                  | 3.0                              |
| 6.5                  | 3.5                              |
| 7.5                  | 4.0                              |
| 8.5                  | 5.0                              |
| 9.5                  | 5.5                              |
| 10.5                 | 6.0                              |

### III. PROMOTED PLAYERS

- A. If a self-rated player is promoted from a level of play, all matches played by that individual player (in the level that the player is being promoted from) shall stand. All players who have computer rated appeals (A) or Dynamic Ratings (D) who are subject to promotion, will not be subject to match reversal if promoted.
- B. A promoted player during local league play may request moving to another team providing there is a team available and time permits. If that team is full, the promoted player may request a waiver regarding number of players on a roster. The NC Director of Adult League Tennis must approve this waiver.

- C. Teams losing a player to NTRP Promotion may be provided an exception to allow for adding a player to their roster if registration has closed and/or their team had the maximum number of players allowed on the roster. The player may not be a self-rated player.

#### IV. LEAGUE PLAY

- A. A round robin format or partial round robin shall be played. When any NTRP level consists of only two teams, each team is required to play a minimum of three team matches which is a triple round robin. When any NTRP level consists of only three teams, each team is required to play a minimum of four team matches which is a double round robin. Any NTRP level may be divided into flights. The flight winners may enter a playoff structure to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level.

The following may be scheduled:

- Partial Round Robin. Each NTRP level within a local league may play a partial round robin competition wherein every team plays the same number of matches against randomly selected opponents. A minimum of the top two teams shall progress to a single elimination playoff to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level.

A full round robin with:

- additional matches, selected randomly, within a flight.
- additional cross-flight matches in which each team in one flight plays an equal number of matches in the other flight, selected randomly if not a full round robin.
- top teams in a flight to play an additional round robin to determine advancement, and the teams without a mathematical chance to advance may play an additional round robin.

- B. The Local League Coordinator will determine the schedules.
- C. If multiple flights in an NTRP level exist, at least 1 team from each flight will advance to a playoff to determine the winner of that level. This rule does not prohibit a playoff for single flight leagues.
- D. The Local League Coordinator will determine the playoff format.
- E. A team's lineup **does not** have to be listed in order of strength, except in the Tri-Level Leagues, where the highest NTRP level must play on the #1 court, the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest NTRP level must play on the #2 court and the lowest NTRP level must play on the #3 court. Example: in the 3.5/3.0/2.5 leagues, the 3.5 rated players play on the #1 court, the 3.0 players on the #2 court and the 2.5 players on the #3 court.
- F. The scoring format for all leagues will be best 2 out of 3 sets with a 10-point match tiebreaker used in lieu of the third set. An exception may be requested for 2-team leagues. Exception requests must be made in writing to the NC Director of Adult Leagues prior to the beginning of league play for approval.
- G. The Coman Tiebreak format will be used for all tiebreakers.
- H. Coaching is not permitted at any point during a match.

Defaults will be "from the bottom"

Courts to be Defaulted

| up,” defaulting the lowest positions first. The chart below shows which courts are to be defaulted first in the different match types. For Tri-Level matches, default whichever court could not be fielded.L | First      |
|--|------------|
| Adult Other- 18 & Over 2.5 (Men) and 5.5, 40 & Over 2.5(Women) and 5.0, and all 65 & Over  | #3 Doubles |
| Mixed Other  | #3 Doubles |
| Singles  | #3 Singles |
| Combo  | #3 Doubles |

- I. The team captain for each team shall exchange their team line-up simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the line-up has been presented, except in the event of illness, injury, disqualification, or no-show of a player prior to the start of an individual match (first service attempt) in which case a team may substitute a player in the affected position within the 15-minute default time, using a player not already listed on the lineup. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five minute warm-up. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position only will be defaulted in local leagues.
  - a. After the start of an individual match, if injury to or illness of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a retirement for that individual match only. If a disqualification occurs, the opponents will be awarded a default.
  - b. Two players will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults. (Note: When dealing with combined levels, this would be permissible only if the two players together would not exceed the combined NTRP level.)
  
- J. Each team must have the minimum number of players available to play the majority of individual matches. If one team does not have the minimum number of players, the opposing team will be credited with a total team default and will win each individual match 6-0, 6-0. If neither team has the required minimum number of players, the match shall be scored as a double team default and neither team will receive credit for a win. In the case of a team default or double team default and individual courts have been played (for example, rain make-ups), any individual matches actually played will count only for player eligibility for advancement and cannot count for determining standings.
  - a. If both teams have the minimum number of players available to play, but the combination of individual defaults by the two teams would result in the majority of matches not being played (valid team match), the teams must follow the procedure below:
  - b. The first course of action would be for both captains to agree on what individual matches, based on the number of players present, or to be present, can be played to constitute a valid team match. Once that is determined, both captains will re-exchange scorecards.
  - c. If both captains cannot come to an agreement on what lines will be played to constitute a valid team match, based on the number of players present, or to be present, then the following individual matches will be assigned in sequential order to be played:

| Format    | Required Matches in sequential order | Minimum # of Players Required for Each Team in Valid Team Match |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 3 doubles | #1 and #2 doubles                    | 4   |

- d. If these procedures are not followed and the resulting scorecard shows an invalid team match, both teams will be charged a full team default.

**K. Full Team Defaults:**

- a. 1 Team Default: At the end of the season, standings will be evaluated to see if the full team default had an effect on the final standings. If the final standings were affected, all of the matches of the defaulting team will be removed from the standings (only the effected round, if more than one round robin) and the final standing will be recalculated. If neither team in contention received a full team default, the final standings will stand. The defaulting team may be subject to a grievance. A defaulting team cannot benefit from their full team default.
- b. 2 Team Defaults: If a team defaults 2 full team matches, all of their matches played or to be played will be null and void. Matches played will count for player NTRP ratings and player advancement purposes, but will not be used to determine the final standings. A grievance may be filed. Teams with 2 team defaults will not be eligible for advancement.

- L. Players may compete on more than one team except if the teams are on the same level, in the same age division and in the same local league.

- M. The winner of each local level will be the team having won the most team matches, unless there is a playoff within the level. In this case, the winner of the playoff would be the winner of the local level.

- N. All scorecards must be posted on TennisLink within the prescribed time listed in the local league rules. NOTE: Where there are no local league rules, the scorecards must be posted within 48 hours by the winning captain and confirmed within 48 hours of the match by the losing captain. If the scorecard has not been posted and confirmed within 48 hours after the match, the Local League Coordinator will determine if there is a winner by the information s/he has. Captains and players have until 2 weeks after scores are entered for a match to request a correction to the scorecard. Follow local league procedures to request a score change.

- O. If a scheduled match is completely rained out (play has not begun on any court), any defaults on the scorecard are reinstated and can be made up. If, however, one court has begun play (first point played) and the match is interrupted due to inclement weather, all defaults stand.

- P. Substitutions for team matches interrupted due to inclement weather: For any court that had begun play (first point played), lineups will stand. For any court that had not yet begun play (first point played), teams may substitute players as long as the substitutions are not listed on the original scorecard.

**V. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- A. Each local league will be extended one invitation per level of play for a team to go to the State Championships. The top two teams will be automatically invited when a level has the following number of teams:



| League                    | Season | Min # of teams on a Level |
|---------------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| USTA League Adult         | Spring | 30                        |
| USTA League Mixed Doubles | Summer | 25                        |
| Southern Combo Doubles    | Fall   | 30                        |
| NCTA Singles League       | Varies | 25                        |
| Southern Tri-Level        | Varies | 25                        |

- B. Wildcards will be offered, if needed, to local leagues according to the chart in Appendix A of these State Regulations. The NC Director of Adult Leagues will notify the LLC of each league after the Team Registration Deadline if any wildcards are being offered. Wildcards are not often used, but can be if a team drops out.
- C. If the first-place team from a local league cannot attend the State Championships, the second-place team will be asked to represent the local league. If the second-place team is unable to attend, the Local League Coordinator must contact the NC Director of Adult League Tennis to discuss the possibility of a lower finishing team attending in its place. The offer may go to another Local League, as determined by the Wildcard chart in Appendix A of these State Regulations, if a team is needed to fill the draw.
- For leagues sending 2 teams to the state championships based on number of teams in league (above), LLC can ask the third-place team to attend if the first or second place team cannot attend.
- D. The following is the minimum number of team members who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play who must be available and eligible to compete at the State Championships:

| League   | Season | Minimum number |
|--|--------|----------------|
| Adult Other (18 & Over 2.5 Men and 5.5)                          | Spring | 5              |
| USTA League Adult 40 & Over 2.5 and 5.0, 55 & over and 65 & over | Spring | 6              |
| USTA League Mixed Doubles*                                       | Summer | 6              |
| Southern Combo Doubles*  | Fall   | 6              |
| NCTA Singles League  | Varies | 3              |
| Southern Tri-Level*  | Varies | 6              |

\*Those 6 players must be able to combine to form 3 eligible lines.

- E. Teams must have played in a minimum of three local matches, except in cases where a team is advancing directly to the State Championships, as provided for in Rule II. E.
- F. Players must play in a minimum number of matches to be eligible to advance to the State Championships (players on teams advancing directly to the State Championships, as provided for in rule II. E., are exempt from the following):

| League   | Season | Minimum Required Matches Played | # of defaults that may count as a match played |
|--|--------|---------------------------------|--|
| Adult Other - 18 & Over 2.5 Men and 5.5, 40 & Over 2.5 (Women) and 5.0 | Spring | 1                               | 1  |
| USTA Adult League 65 & Over  | Spring | 1                               | 1  |
| USTA League Mixed 55 & over  | Summer | 1                               | 1  |
| USTA League Mixed 65 & over  | Summer | 1                               | 1  |
| Southern Combo Doubles   | Fall   | 1                               | 1  |
| NCTA Singles League  | Varies | 1                               | 1  |
| Southern Tri-Level League  | Varies | 1                               | 1  |

G. Team Matches at the State Championships will consist of:

| League   | Season | Individual Courts Played |
|--|--------|--------------------------|
| Adult Other (18 & Over 2.5 and 5.5)                          | Spring | 1 Singles, 2 Doubles     |
| Adult Other (40 & Over 2.5 and 5.0 and all 65 & over levels) | Spring | 3 Doubles                |
| USTA League Mixed Doubles                                    | Summer | 3 Doubles                |
| Southern Combo Doubles                                       | Fall   | 3 Doubles                |
| NCTA Singles League  | Varies | 3 Singles                |
| Southern Tri-Level   | Varies | 3 Doubles                |

H. There is not a limit on how many teams a player may advance on. However, a player may not advance on multiple teams that are in the same NTRP level and age division (ex. 2 Adult 18 & Over 3.5 teams from different local leagues).

- There will be NO special consideration in scheduling for players on multiple teams.
- Player registration fees will be required for each registration.

I. If a round robin or partial round robin match play ends with a tie in Championship Play, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that breaks the tie:

1. Most individual matches won.
2. Head-to-head winner, only if all tied teams have played each other AND one team defeated all of the teams that are tied.
3. Fewest sets lost.
4. Fewest games lost.
5. Highest % of games won.
6. Toss of coin.

If more than 2 teams are tied: Tiebreaks noted above will be used to eliminate teams. Once a team is eliminated, tiebreaks will continue down the list until only 1 winner is declared. For example, Teams A, B, C and D are tied at the end of the round robin. Tiebreak #2 eliminates Team D. Tiebreak #3 eliminates Team C. Tiebreak #4 and then #5 (if needed) is used to break the tie between Team A and Team B.

- J. If a player's team wins at the State Championship but s/he did not play at the State Championships, that player is eligible to play at the Section Championship provided he or she had met the requirements to qualify for the State Championship.

### **2025 State Championships**

| League State Championship       | Date        | Location   | Levels  |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------------|---|
| USTA League Adult 65 & Over     | May 16-18   | Greenville | 3.0-4.0   |
| USTA League Mixed Doubles       | Sept. 4-7   | Greensboro | 18s: 2.5-4.5, 10.0<br>40s: 3.0-4.5<br>55s: 3.0-4.5<br>65s: 3.0-4.0  |
| Southern Tri-Level              | Sept. 18-21 | Raleigh    | 18s: 3.5/3.0/2.5 (W)<br>4.0/3.5/3.0<br>4.5/4.0/3.5<br>5.0/4.5/4.0<br>5.5/5.0/4.5<br>40s: 3.5/3.0/2.5 (W)<br>4.0/3.5/3.0<br>4.5/4.0/3.5<br>55s: 4.0/3.5/3.0<br>4.5/4.0/3.5 |
| NCTA Singles League             | Oct. 2-5    | Goldsboro  | 18s: 2.5-5.0<br>40s: 3.0-4.5<br>55s: 3.0-4.0  |
| Southern Combo Doubles (Part 1) | Nov. 6-9    | Wilmington | 18s: 2.5(W) /6.5/8.5/10.5<br>40s: 6.5/8.5<br>55s: 6.5/8.5<br>65s: 6.5   |
| Southern Combo Doubles (Part 2) | Nov. 13-16  | Wilmington | 18s: 5.5/7.5/9.5<br>40s: 5.5/7.5/9.5<br>55s: 7.5<br>65s: 7.5  |

### **2025 COMMITTEES**

#### NC Grievance Committee\*:

Jean Haas  
Brenda Jones  
Ben Koren

#### NC Grievance Appeals Committee\*:

Dani Broadstreet  
Cookie Guarini  
Bobby Taylor

\*Additional committee members can be selected from the 2025 Local League Coordinators and/or the 2025 Adult League Committee or other USTA affiliates as needed.

| 2025 Local League Coordinators  | 2025 Adult League Committee   |
|---|---|
| <p>Michelle Benson<br/> Elizabeth Speicher<br/> Sabrina Kane<br/> Susan Brodeur<br/> Samantha Haislip<br/> Barbara Butterworth<br/> Anna Jones<br/> Iris Ham<br/> Robyn Haug<br/> Anna Martin<br/> Shannon Roley<br/> Angie McEachran<br/> Cindy Perry<br/> Sherry Smith<br/> Bobby Taylor<br/> Lela Thompson<br/> Bevie Walker<br/> Carol Cooke<br/> Jennifer Kersey</p> | <p>Dani Broadstreet,<br/> Chair<br/> Robyn Haug<br/> Brenda Jones<br/> Ben Koren<br/> Paul Narula<br/> Bobby Taylor<br/> Anna Martin<br/> Connor Wilkins<br/> Devon<br/> Wadsworth<br/> Susan Brodeur<br/> Lance King<br/> Cookie Guarini<br/> JD Weber</p> |

## **Appendix A**

### **2025 Wildcards**

#### **Rules Governing Wildcards**

*Wildcards will only be offered in a level if needed to fill a draw in the State Championship schedule. The order that wildcards are offered are posted at [www.nctennis.com](http://www.nctennis.com). Areas automatically sending their top two teams for a level, will move to the bottom of the list for that level.*